

Environmental Regulations Guide

Section 11 Environmental Nuisances

11.0 Environmental Nuisances: ARS 49-141-144; Maricopa County EHC chapter II & III; SRC chapter 18

The State of Arizona statutes contain 9 categories of environmental nuisances. They are defined as the creation or maintenance of a condition in the soil, air or water that causes or threatens to cause harm to public health or the environment. The following may constitute environmental nuisances:

1. Breeding places for flies, rodents, mosquitoes and other insects, which carry and transmit disease-causing organisms to people.
2. Unsanitary buildings.
3. Sewage, human excreta, wastewater, garbage or other organic wastes released to the environment or posing a threat to human health.
4. Spills and leaks from garbage and tractor trucks.
5. Overflowing septic tanks or cesspools.
6. The pollution or contamination of any domestic waters.
7. Unapproved use of sewage or sewage plant effluents for fertilizing or irrigating crops or gardens.
8. Unauthorized storage, collection, transportation, disposal and reclamation of garbage, trash, rubbish, manure and other objectionable wastes.
9. Water, which is unwholesome, poisonous or contains deleterious or foreign substances or filth or disease-causing substances or organisms.

The City of Scottsdale ordinances address three types of environmental nuisances: noise, light pollution and vectors (rodents, flies and mosquitoes capable of transmitting diseases to humans).

11.1 Noise Abatement: SRC 4-17 (c); 16-353 (b); 19-20; 20-109, etc. address several specific types of noise

Scottsdale Revised Code; 4-17(c); 5-2808; 16-353(b); 16-353(b); 18-1 *et seq.*; 20-109; etc. addresses several specific types of noise.

City ordinances regulate & provide for enforcement of violations of the following sources of noises.

- Noise from events and activities in city parks
- Noise from various types of construction and commercial sites
- Noise from an animal that habitually barks
- Noise from a person standing on the street and yelling at people in an attempt to persuade them to purchase or accept something

Scottsdale Airport also has Traffic Patterns & Noise Abatement Procedures in the Municipal Airport Code.

Best Number to call: City of Scottsdale Code Enforcement (480) 312-2546

11.2 Light Pollution: ARS 49-1101; SRC chapter 48, section 149; SRC Appendix B Basic Zoning Ordinance, sections 7-600; 5-1803, etc.

State of Arizona statutes contain minimum standards for shielding outdoor lighting. They also contain a provision to phase out mercury vapor lighting. The minimum standards are:

All outdoor light fixtures shall be fully or partially shielded except incandescent fixtures of one hundred fifty watts or less and other sources of seventy watts or less. Streetlight fixtures are exempt from this requirement if the shielding is not available from the manufacturer.

City of Scottsdale ordinance requirements supersede the state requirements. They address several specific outdoor lighting issues.

- Light pollution from outdoor lighting
- Lighting in parking lots
- Accent lighting
- Lighting for commercial sites

Best numbers to call

City of Scottsdale Code Enforcement (480) 312-2546

11.3 Vector Control: ARS 36-104; Maricopa County EHC chapter III; SRC chapter 24, sections 2 & 54

Purpose

To reduce morbidity, disability and premature death due to diseases transmitted primarily from animals or arthropod vectors to humans.

Helpful Details

Vectors are rodents, flies & mosquitoes and other insects capable of carrying and transmitting disease-causing organisms to people. The Maricopa County regulations require people to eliminate breeding places where vectors multiply. Maricopa County inspectors investigate complaints, issues citations/orders to abate & treat/eliminate mosquito breeding places. Maricopa County also supplies free mosquito larvae eating fish upon request.

Best numbers to call

Maricopa County Mosquito Complaint Line (602) 506-6616